

4 per year
1944
THE LOMOND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

JOURNAL.



NO. 2

JULY, 1944.

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EDITORIAL:

We are pleased to report that the first issue of the Journal has been received most favourably and that members are sending in quite a lot of material - but we can do with still more.

It would greatly assist the Editor if members could send in their notes as soon as possible after each week-end in order to obviate the rush of editing at the last minute.

We should also be pleased if members out of town would let us know if they receive their copy of the Journal. In this way we can be sure that no one has failed to receive his copy.

All notices should be sent to the Editor, H. Grant, 12, Clincart Road, Glasgow, S.2.

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CLUB MEETINGS.

The April, May and June monthly meetings have been noticeable only for their lack of Club business and there is little or nothing to report.

The June meeting, however, provided an excellent opportunity for discussing the forthcoming holidays. Owing to the lifting of the restrictions on travel to Skye, the majority of members are heading for Glen Brittle this year. For the benefit of those members who could not be present at the meeting and who may be contemplating a visit to Skye this year, there will be Club Members at Glen Brittle during the Fair fortnight and August.

CLUB NOTES.

The Journal seems to have fulfilled part of its original mission, judging by letters of appreciation from Johnny Jack, Bill Bolton, and Karl Michaelus.

Johnny Jack in his letter, informs us that he has followed step by step the Lomonds' activities of the past few months and shared in a mild degree the thrills which came their way. He also mentions that he's glad it takes more than war to quench the spirit of the hills. Johnny is on flying duties with the R.A.F. so his climbing takes a different form nowadays. He hopes, however, to manage out sometime soon - so here's hoping.

Bill Bolton, also with the Air Force, thinks the Club is establishing through the Journal, a good foundation for post-war activities of the Club. He expresses amazement, however, at the sum of £38 to the Club's credit and recalls the days when the Club considered themselves rich with a balance of £10. Needless, to say he puts forward excellent suggestions for disposing of the surplus funds which, no doubt, would meet with the wholehearted approval of most of the Members.

Karl Michaelus received his copy of the journal all right, and tells us how much he enjoyed reading about the Club's activities. Although Karl has not had the opportunity to climb for ~~some~~ years now, his enthusiasm does not seem in any way diminished. He mentions that he hopes to collect this copy of the Journal in person, but so far that seems a little premature. Maybe the next one, Karl.

These three members send their best wishes to all members and we reciprocate by wishing them a speedy and safe return to the companions and hills that they know so well.

Bill Wassell who has hardly missed a week-end out of doors both before and during the war, has just been called up for the R.A.F. Members at home will miss his pleasant companionship but we hope that it won't be long now till he and all the other lads in the Forces are climbing with us once more.

LANTERN LECTURES:

After the Club Meeting on May 3rd, W. Russel entertained the members with a fine selection of lantern slides. These included some excellent shots of the Cairngorms and some happy reminders of week-ends in the past.

We are indebted to Mr. D. Sime for bringing along his projector which helped greatly in showing the slides to advantage.

There will be no further Lantern Lectures during the summer months but we hope to draw up a programme for the winter, which will be published in due course in the Journal.

LIBRARY:

The following books owned by the Club have now been gathered together at the Club Rooms and may be borrowed by members:

"EVEREST" by Ruttledge.
"SPIRIT OF THE HILLS" by Smythe.
"KAMET CONQUERED"
"ATTACK ON EVEREST"

S.M.C. Guides:

NEVIS
CENTRAL HIGHLANDS.
CAIRNGORMS.

Lake Guides:

SCAFFELL GROUP.
(GREAT GABLE.
(BORROWDALE and BUTTERMERE.
PILLAR OF ROCK and NEIGHBOURHOOD.

Should any members care to add volumes to the Library they should send them to The Club Rooms, 109 Gt. Western Road, Glasgow.

For those who enjoy books on climbing here are a few recommended by J. Nimlin:

"UNCLIMBED NEW ZEALAND" - John Pascoe.
"HELVELLYN to HIMALAYA" - Specer Chapman.
"LET'S go CLIMBING" - Colin Kirkis.
"UPON that MOUNTAIN" - Erik Shipton.

Also two Novels - "Sinister Crag" by Newton Gayle, a murder mystery with an authentic mountain atmosphere, and "Bride to the Mountains" by Firbank, a thriller set in the Welsh Mountains.

Nimlin himself has written a fine article on the climbs on Ben Aan which appears in the current issue of the S.M.C. Journal in which he has given us quite a unique classification of climbs - "Amiably Severe".

WEEK-ENDS.

EASTER MEET, 1944.

CAIRNGORMS.

A good turn-out of Members held their Easter meet at Clach-Bharraig at the foot of Cairngorm. Most of the party arrived on the Friday and on Saturday, A. Slack, R. Hutchison and A. Kay, together with two friends climbed a snow gully on Cairn Lochan which was in nice condition and not difficult. Cairn Lochan, together with Cairngorm, was climbed and altogether a fine day was spent on the tops. On Sunday, A. Hutchison and A. Kay carried their packs to the renowned Shelter Stone and then went on to climb the Castle Gates Gully with A. Slack. This gully was very disappointing as the snow had disappeared leaving only a small lip of steep snow near the top. From there, the party made their way to Ben Macdhui and after much consultation with map and compass finally reached the summit. On leaving here they met R. Hutchison and A. Shanks who had just climbed Cairngorm and Cairn Lochan and were on their way to finish off the three peaks. The Party now consisting of five members, continued on their way back. R. Hutchison and A. Kay deserted at the Feith Buidhe and made their way back to the Shelter Stone. This day was altogether a big day and the weather was very disagreeable - it was raining and the mist lay on the hills all day.

On the Monday, however, the weather smiled on them and the Cairngorms never looked grander. A. Hutchison and A. Kay with a friend left the Shelter Stone and made for the Forest Lodge in Glen Tilt 25 miles away. The route lay via the Lairig Ghru to the White Bridge and Bynach Lodge. This Party made Blair Atholl the following day.

Meantime, R. Hutchison and friends again climbed Cairn Lochan, this time by the Fiacail Ridge - a ridge which affords a good rock route. Alf Slack and a friend were also on the hills this day and climbed Ben Macdhui.

Altogether this was one of the best Easters that the party can recall for some time and this active week-end was thoroughly enjoyed by all members and friends.

BEN A'N

Ben A'n has proved very popular with members these last few months and several accounts have come from parties who have had some fine climbing on this fascinating hill.

On Saturday, 25th March, a good party of the club camped at the Glade. Jock and Jennie Nimlin, A. Kay and A. Hutchison did the Ash Tree Climb, the "Last Eighty" and various other small climbs. Meanwhile, A. Slack, J. Harvey and two friends climbed the Water ~~Slide~~ Gully, which though little climbed, seems to provide some interesting problems. It starts well down the hill past the Tree Climb and appears to be a miniature "Rocess Route". The upper portion is very steep and has too much vegetation.

Nimlin then joined Harvey's party and they climbed a chimney to the left and finished on a small buttress. The weather was good and although mist came down it remained dry. The week-end finished with the usual rush across the Duke's Pass but Harvey's party strolled leisurely over, camping at Aberfoyle till Monday Morning. Harvey ends his account with the somewhat wistful remark - "By the way, not a single motor passed us while we were going over the Duke's Pass".

The Easter week-end found another party consisting of John and Jennie Nimlin, Flo. Grant, Peter McGeoch and Johnnie Harvey camping at the Glade. Among the non-members present were Mrs. McGeoch, Frankie Rough, Joe McGeoch (aged 12) and Dorothy Nimlin (aged 16 months). The party enjoyed plenty of leisurely climbing in very fine weather and everyone eventually reached the summit, including Dorothy, who made the ascent on Jock's back. On the way out, the crossing of the Duke's Pass was made by taxi without any evidence of shame, but on the homeward journey the only one who travelled de luxe was little Dorothy who alternated between her carrier and Jock's pack.

At the King's Birthday week-end, May 20th, there was still another party camping at the Glade - A. Slack, A. Kay, a. Hutchison, F. & H. Grant. On Sunday, in perfect weather, the party traditionally started off the day with the Ash Tree Climb and followed it up with the "Last Eighty". After these exertions they spent a good hour sunbathing on the summit. Before returning to camp for dinner the party was brow-beaten by A. Slack into climbing the Rent which made an enjoyable, if strenuous, finish to the first part of the day. All wore rubbers except Flo. & Harry Grant and the latter, whose boots were in the last stages of decrepitude and considerably lacking in nails, is fully prepared to argue with Nimlin on the AMIABLE severity of the Ash Tree Climb and the "Last Eighty".

After dinner A. Slack and F. & H. Grant, possibly in an effort to avoid gathering firewood, went round to the Left Hand Gully and thoroughly enjoyed its pleasant difficulties before continuing to the summit to witness a fine sunset. A fireside Brains Trust, lasting into the wee sma' hours finished off a fine day. Monday was a lazy day except for the usual slog over the Duke's Pass.

THE COBBLER:

On Saturday, 29th April, A. Slack with friend, and A. Kay made their way to that evergreen of mountains - The Cobbler. The weather was fine and after pitching tents at the Shelter Stone the party then proceeded to climb the South peak by the Jug Handle route and continued to the Needle and the North Peak, thus traversing the whole ridge. Sunday was occupied in climbing the Recess Route. This was

climbed in two parties. A. Kay and R. Hutchison (who arrived on Saturday night) forming one party and A. Slack and friend forming the other. Later that night A. Kay and R. Hutchison climbed the Spearhead Arête on Narnain in a howling wind. As A. Kay afterwards remarked, he was never so glad to get off a climb in all his life and has now a little more respect for climbs classed Moderate in a high wind. On Monday A. Slack and A. Kay climbed the Ramshead Gully.

On June 11th A. Slack and W. Russell camped up the Cobbler Corrie and were joined later in the day by F. & H. Grant. A. Kay and S. Hutchison who were also supposed to be there only got as far as the caves. The weather broke down badly about five o'clock but A. Slack and W. Russell, in spite of the heavy rain, set off for the Cobbler. This undoubtedly shamed F. & H. Grant into quitting their tent to go on to Narnain, where they did one or two climbs - just sufficient to justify the slog up - before they hastily left the summit to find a more sheltered spot back in the corrie. Meanwhile, the other two members who had originally intended to do the Direct Route on Jean wisely exchanged the idea for the Ramshead Ridge which was considerably less exposed to the wind and rain.

Sunday morning was just as foul a day as can be encountered in the Cobbler Corrie and the party left early to return home by steamer from Tarbet. During the homeward journey, the weather, as so often happens, improved and the party enjoyed a pleasant sail home.

CREAG TARSUINN:

On Saturday, 13th May, a good number of members arrived at Arrochar consisting of A. Slack with friend, W. Russell, P. McGeoch, T. McKee and A. Kay. The Party camped in the Sugach Corrie and on the Sunday climbed the Arête on the Sugach Buttress. A very enjoyable day was had.

Later, A. Kay and T. McKee, who had more time on their hands than the other members climbed a gully on the south side of the Arête. This was thought at first to be Avalanche Gully but the party are now doubtful. The climb consisted of two pitches. The first pitch took the left hand wall and could be graded "V.D.". The second pitch continued outside the gully on the face of the hill for about 30 ft. At this point it became necessary to traverse back in to the Gully on to a huge chock stone. This part of the climb was awkward and exposed as it overlooked the gully. Altogether, the climb would be about 80 to 100 ft. and is thought to be the first ascent as moss had to be cleaned out for finger holds on the last part and nail marks were not observed. This climb was thoroughly enjoyed by the two members.

BEN CRUACHAN:

At the week-end, 20th to 22nd May, a party consisting of Members J. Shanks and R. Hutchison accompanied by their wives, visited Ben Cruchan. From their camp in Corrie Glass, Cruchan was ascended by the eastern ridge to Stob Garbh. From Stob Daimh the men climbed Sron an

Isean and then the whole party continued over Drochaid Glass, Cruachan and Stob Dearg. After a traverse of the south face of Cruachan, conspicuous for its boilerplate slabs, the ascent of Meall Cuanail, the last of the seven 3,000 ft. tops, was achieved. The route from Corrie Cruachan was over the coll of Bein A'Bhairidh. The weather was glorious and the views from the summits included Arran, the Cobbler, Ben Nevis and the Cairngorms. Young Robbie Hutchison (aged 6), who accompanied the party did five of the peaks, so it will be seen that the future generation of Club Members is likely to be a hardy one.

Having ascended 6,154 ft. and being eleven hours on the hills, the party took things easy on the Monday.

BLAIR ATHOLL:

Four members - J. Shanks, A. Kay, R. and A. Hutchison with friend spent the week-end, 3rd to 4th June, at Blair Atholl. This party camped above Loch Moraig and in spite of very poor weather made the ascent of Carn Liath. During the walk back to Blair Atholl the party was caught in a cloud burst and from the account received they were almost nudist in the station while they changed to dry clothing.

GLENCOE:

Willie Russell and a friend managed to struggle up to the Lost Glen early on Saturday, 15th April, in very unpromising weather. They made themselves thoroughly at home in one of the caves and were joined late that night by A. Slack and a friend - much exhausted.

On Sunday they climbed a gully which had interested Alf on a previous visit and, although they do not know the name of this gully it is situated on the left of the upper corrie of Bidean. This turned out quite a good climb, necessitating some step-cutting on ice and with a crux to add interest. On the summit it was mild and during spells of sunshine they got the cameras going. Members will no doubt see the results in due course. The Editor has already seen one snap which caused Alf considerable embarrassment, but, unfortunately, it can't be published here!

The descent was made with rain and thunder threatening and, the poor weather continuing till Monday, that day was spent in scrambling and exploring the rocks for more caves.

OBITUARY.

We regret to announce the death of Bill Hendry, recently killed in action in Burma.

Bill joined the Club in September 1937 during a long week-end at the Lake District and from that time till he left for the Forces was a regular attender at the Club Meets.

He will be long remembered for his enthusiasm and good-fellowship and his loss will be deeply felt by all who associated with him on the hills.